



DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES REGULATION
BOARD OF NURSE REGISTRATION AND NURSING EDUCATION

3 Capitol Hill, Conference Room 401, Providence, Rhode Island

Monday, March 9, 2015 @ 8:56 am

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Linda Twardowski, President
Diane Blier
Elizabeth Bloom
Jessica Brier
Maria Ducharme (*exited meeting early*)
Kathleen Heron
Joanne Matthew
Anne Tierney
Delores Walters
Kristen Young

BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Lynn Blanchette
Marie Jean
Maria Pezzillo

STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Donna Costantino, Chief, Health Professionals Regulation
Jane Morgan, Chief Legal Counsel
Kimberly McNulty, Chief Implementation Aide

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bob Casey, Pro Se
Eleanor Clapprood, NPARI
Rosemary Costigan, Community College of Rhode Island
Jane Williams, Rhode Island College
Dayle Joseph, NEIT
Wendy Laprade, RN
Sharon Stager, FNP, Salve Regina University
Emmanuel Fulch
Chris Gadbois, ANA-RI
Patricia Burbank, University of Rhode Island
Mary Sullivan, University of Rhode Island

1. Establishment of a quorum

A meeting of the Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education was held on Monday, March 9, 2015 at the Rhode Island Department of Health, Conference Room 401, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908. A quorum was established and the Open Session meeting was called to order at 8:56 am on a motion by Linda Twardowski and seconded by Jessica Brier. Motion carried.

2. Presentation of the January 12, 2015 Open Session Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Anne Tierney and seconded by Jessica Brier to accept the Open Session minutes of January 12, 2015. The Board voted unanimously to approve the Open Session minutes as presented. Motion carried.

3. President's Report

a. Executive Director vacancy

Donna Costantino stated the applications are being reviewed.

b. Nurse Compact Legislation

Chairperson Linda Twardowski raised the issue of legislation introduced at the General Assembly potentially repealing the Interstate Nurse Compact Act. There was much discussion about this legislation. Counsel for the Board cautioned the Board that as members of the Board they were not able to lobby for or against legislation. In addition, counsel reminded the Board that the open meeting act and Roberts Rules did not allow for members of the public to interject and enter into a conversation during the Open Meeting without proper process being followed. Chairperson provided the Board members and public with documents concerning the above referenced proposed legislation.

c. Statutory changes: Quorum/attendance for Board of Nursing meetings

President Twardowski expressed challenges and concerns in securing a quorum for board meetings and its impact on addressing board work in a timely manner. Legal Counsel advised the Board that any legislation changes must first be reviewed by the Health Director, the Office of Health and Human Services and the Governor's Office. The process is lengthy and would most likely not be ready until the 2016 legislative session. Therefore, the Board voted to create an Attendance Policy stating each member must attend 75% of the Board's yearly meetings or be referred to the Director for removal.

Motion was made by Jessica Brier and seconded by Anne Tierney to accept the Attendance Policy. Motion carried.

d. Licensing concerns for APRNs

Due to the new licensing format for APRNs with prescribing privileges, each APRN will be assigned a new number. Jessica Brier discussed the burden this causes due to updating this number with their insurers, Medicare, Medicaid, their employers, etc. JoAnn Matthew will forward a list of all parties that must be notified of the new

license number change. Donna Costantino will compose a letter with this information which will accompany the renewal notifications going forward.

e. Licensing concerns for all nurses

- i. Late renewals
- ii. Active/inactive
- iii. Reinstatement
- iv. Renewal process

The Board discussed the necessity for inactive licenses to receive re-training from an accredited program before renewal. The application will then be reviewed and approved by the Board.

Currently the licensing program for Rhode Island, L2K, does not allow holds on late renewals, disciplined licenses or inactive licenses thereby allowing nurses to renew on-line without the Board's knowledge. Other states' licensing program will not allow nurses to renew unless they are in good standing; Jane Morgan and Donna Costantino are working to revise L2K to do the same.

Department staff will work closely with the Board to develop legislation related to possibly fine nurses for renewing their license in an untimely manner.

Motion was made by Jessica Brier and seconded by Anne Tierney that anyone on inactive status for any reason will not be eligible for on-line renewal, however, the licensee does not need to come before the Board of Nursing.

f. NLC meeting – January 30, 2015

President Twardowski was unable to attend due to an injury.

g. Mid-year meeting – March 16-22, 2015

Elizabeth Bloom will attend instead of President Twardowski due to injury.

h. NCLEX update for nursing undergrad programs

See 4b below.

i. Delegation of Duties for discipline/non-discipline contracts

President Twardowski will sign Board documents until a new director of nursing is hired.

j. Journal of Nursing Regulation, Volume 5, Issue 4 January 2015

President Twardowski distributed the journal to all interested parties.

4. Old Business

- Reports from the work groups of the Board of Nursing:

i. Task Force on Education:

Lead: Maria Pezzillo with Marie Jean, Lynne Blanchette, Diane Blier

ii. Task Force on Skill Remediation:

Lead: Kristen Young, with Delores Walters, Anne Tierney

Discussion related to developing a list of accredited programs that Nurses required to go through re-training may refer to without the Board making a direct recommendation.

iii. Task Force for Website Improvement:

Lead: Jessica Brier, with Linda Twardowski, Kathy Heren, Maria Ducharme, Joanne Matthew.

iv. Task Force for Nursing Basic Education BON seats:

Lead: Elizabeth Bloom, with Lynne Blanchette, Maria Pezzillo.

b. NCLEX Results and response from three schools of nursing.

Representatives from the University of Rhode Island, New England Technical Institute and Salve Regina attended the meeting and discussed their programs. The Board shared the NCSBN “*Report 4 Year to Date – Jurisdiction Program Summary of all First-Time Candidates Licensed in All Jurisdictions – Oct 1, 2014 – Dec 31, 2014*”. The Board requested each school file a report for its review in June 2015.

5. New Business

a. NCLEX: does the Board accept NCLEX exams from Puerto Rico in Spanish

The Board voted unanimously that provided the exam is a NCLEX exam the language it is taken in does not affect the licensing.

b. Review Board of Nursing Registration and Nurse Education appointments

Currently two seats remain vacant. Three seats will be term limited in June 2016

6. Motion to adjourn to Closed Session

Motion was made by Anne Tierney and seconded by Kristen Young to adjourn to Closed Session at 11:40 am. Motion carried. Pursuant to Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(a)(1) of the Rhode Island General Laws, for the purpose of discussing job performance, character, physical or mental health of applicants for licensure. Said individuals have been notified in advance by writing that they may request that the discussion be held at an open meeting. Also, pursuant to Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(a)(4) of the Rhode Island General Laws, for investigatory proceedings regarding allegations of civil or criminal misconduct.

7. Return to Open Session

Motion was made by Maria Pezzillo and seconded by Kathleen Heron at 3:35 PM to re-open the Open Session and to seal the Minutes of the Closed Session pursuant to Sections 42-46-4, 42-46-5 and 42-46-7 of the Rhode Island General Laws. Motion carried.

8. Final Actions on all votes taken in Closed Session

- The board proposed action on 23 cases.

9. Adjournment

The next Board of Nursing Registration and Nursing Education meeting will be held Monday, March 9, 2015 at 8:45 AM at the Rhode Island Department of Health, Conference Room 401, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908. Motion was made by Kathleen Heren and seconded by Jessica Brier to adjourn at 4:26 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly McNulty
Chief Implementation Aide
Office of Health Professionals Regulation